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Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-

Sculptor: Heinz Warneke

Inscription:

Allen Welsh Dulles

Director of Central Intelligence

1953 - 1961

His monument is around us.

UNVEILING CEREMONY

12 Noon

March 21, 1968

*Original filed under Dulles*

Colonel White:

Mr. Helms, Mr. And Mrs. Dulles, Mr. and Mrs. Warneke,  
Members of USIB, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a very great personal pleasure for me to open and play some small part in this ceremony this morning in which we honor Mr. Dulles as the Director of Central Intelligence who is responsible for this Headquarters building. It was my privilege to be his staff officer charged with the coordination and overseeing of this project from its inception to its completion and this lasted quite a few years.

As I remember, we started serious planning in about 1953, we got our authorization from the Congress in 1955, we laid our cornerstone with the help of the President on the 3rd of November 1959, the building was essentially completed and we started to move in in the Fall of 1961. I will defer only to Mrs. Dulles as possibly having greater knowledge of the tremendous indebtedness we owe to Mr. Dulles for this Headquarters building. Maybe she has greater appreciation than I as to how much he contributed, but I don't think I shall defer to anyone else.

Through these years, there were many problems and frustrations, challenges and even some fun. As you know, Mr. Dulles felt that in our work we should be secret about the important things and about those things which you could be secret about and not try to shroud yourself in a cloak of secrecy about things you couldn't possibly hide. Well, certainly this building was important and certainly you could not hide it, and so it was his instruction to me that we should be as open and frank and straight-forward and honest as we could possibly be with everybody who had an inquiry about this building, and this turned out to be quite a chore. I never knew that there were so many people who could tell you how to spend 46 million dollars of Uncle Sam's money before. There are literally thousands of them and as far as I could tell, they all assumed that their personal interest coincided with the best interest of the Central Intelligence Agency. At any rate, this was quite a chore and there were many amusing incidents.

I remember the very irate lady who was disappointed because I couldn't give her immediate permission to sell hot dogs to the construction force. I remember the very pungent remarks of a Fairfax County engineer who said that there were going to be dire consequences unless somebody could tell him how many people were going to be in this building because he was designing a pumping station over here that would dispose of the sewage. One of the most controversial and certainly one of the most interesting aspects of this entire project was the location of the building;

and since this is a very small family gathering, I thought I might share with you some of the highlights as to how this location was finally chosen. Although this story is about incidents which took place more than 12 years ago, I'm not sure that I'm beyond the Statute of Limitations, but as Mr. Dulles sometimes said, "Perhaps I'll be a little indiscrete. Mr. Dulles and I and others tramped over many acres and for many miles around this town looking at various sites which were under consideration usually on a Saturday afternoon or a Sunday morning. Clearly Langley, which he referred to as the Old Leiter Estate, was his first choice from the very beginning. As this started to crystallize, I had reservations and I sought an appointment with Mr. Dulles which was not hard to obtain when you wanted to talk about the building and I expressed my reservations. I said, "Mr. Dulles, you know this is a forest out there, public utilities are not very close, we'll have to build an auxiliary power plant, there isn't any road out there, this will add 8 1/2 million dollars to our appropriation request. This is not consistent with the master plan for the development of greater Washington, and certainly we are going to have opposition from the planning commission, and last but not least, the landed gentry out there may not want us. Well, in my many conferences with Mr. Dulles, he had two moods. When he said calmly and quietly, "Yes, yes, I understand, I see, I see," I knew he was sympathetic to what I was saying. When he would say, "Yup, yup, yup," I knew that he was hearing me but he didn't agree. Well, on this particular occasion, almost from the time I started to make my speech, the "Yup, yup, yup" became louder and with increasing rapidity. When I had finished he said, "Red, nothing is simple or easy in this life, let's go out and overcome the obstacles." So I charged out and we worked very diligently and hard and opposition was mounting, but we felt we were making some progress when a few weeks later another member of the staff, much more persuasive than I, told Mr. Dulles that the landed gentry out here were indeed going to take us on and that we were going to have a real fight on our hands. We almost certainly were going to lose and we were going to get into a lot of trouble and have a lot of bad publicity and perhaps we better go someplace else. Mr. Dulles most reluctantly agreed to consider other sites although I know his heart wasn't in it.

Luckily not many weeks went by during which we were toying with the idea of tearing down the old brewery and building this Headquarters building about where the Kennedy Cultural Center is now under construction. One Friday evening about nine o'clock, Mr. Dulles called me at home and said the President had asked him to come to the White House the next morning to talk about the building and that he would like for me to go along. He didn't want to take any papers because the President wouldn't be interested in detail and so we didn't know what he wanted to talk about anyway.

We arrived over there about ten o'clock. The White House was very quiet, no one was there except Andy Goodpastor. The President looked like he was getting ready to play golf, and the President, General Goodpastor, Mr. Dulles and I sat down. The President said, "Allen, I want to talk to you about your building. Now where are you going to build it?" Mr. Dulles said, "Well, Mr. President, we haven't finally decided, but we're thinking very seriously about building it right where we are now." The President reacted instantly. "Allen, I've got news for you. This town is already too cluttered up and you are not going to clutter it up any more," and he started to address himself to getting out of town. This was the age of dispersal anyway and he said thirty miles and every time he would utter another new sentence the distance seemed to get farther and farther. I was convinced before he had finished that the closest we could possibly locate would be Denver. Mr. Dulles finally got an opening. He said in his very persuasive way, "Mr. President, I just feel that I must be close in. Our work is very important I have to have immediate access to the White House, The Pentagon, State Department, and there are ambassadors and others who come to town that I want to see and they won't come thirty miles to see me, and I feel that if the Agency is going to do its work, that it must be very close in." The President was very unimpressed and his remarks were very negative, very forceful, and very colorful. Although I had had some fourteen years of military experience, it had not been my pleasure to have any association whatever with the President in his military service, but I was satisfied from the color and flavor of his remarks that he had indeed been a soldier.

The only paper which we took with us was an Esso map of Metropolitan Washington. With this extreme negative reaction on the part of the President, Mr. Dulles' eyes flashed and he said, "Well, Mr. President, you know we were considering the Old Leiter Estate." The President didn't know where that was and so our Esso map came in very handy. We showed this to the President and after some brief discussion, he said, "I think rather reluctantly, 'Well I guess that will be all right.'"

We picked up our marbles and ran. A few weeks later, Governor Adams summoned a meeting at the White House. We obviously did not consider it appropriate to say to anyone that the President had made these remarks and Governor Adams had called this meeting at the suggestion of the Emergency Planning people. And again there were ten or fifteen people sitting around the table and we were headed for Denver. Finally Mr. Dulles said to General Goodpastor, "Andy, you will remember I spoke to the President about this?" And Governor Adams hearing this for the first time said, "Andy, what did the President say?" Andy said, "The President said he thought that would be all right." And Governor Adams said, "Gentlemen, the meeting is adjourned."

Well, we had accomplished a good deal, but according to the National Capitol Planning Act of 1952, we still had to present these plans to the National Capitol Planning Commission where we knew the staff and probably the chairman were not very well disposed. We talked to all the members we could as individuals and thought we had a reasonable chance of getting a favorable vote. Our case was considered by the planning commission on 16 December 1955. We were not permitted to come to this or any of the other meetings although the press was invited but being an intelligence agency, we found ways to find out what went on there. We were quite sure that we had the support of the District Engineer Commissioner even though the Federal City Council and the Committee of One Hundred and all the papers were opposed to it. We felt pretty sure the Director of the National Park Service would support us not only because it was right, but because it would extend the Parkway from Spout Run out this far. We felt pretty sure the Public Buildings Commissioner would support us because he was going to build the building, and we certainly counted on the Chief of Engineers of The U.S. Army, all of whom had a vote. Somewhat to our surprise, we lost and the recommendation of the Commission was very adverse. Our intelligence told us within a few minutes that indeed, the District Engineer Commissioner had supported us; the Director of the National Park Service had supported us, but the chairman had made some rulings about other votes which had a very decided influence. In the first place, Congressman Broyhill was there to represent the Chairman of the House District Committee. The Chairman ruled that he couldn't vote because he didn't have a written delegation of authority. The Public Buildings Commissioner had resigned a few days earlier and the Chairman ruled that there wasn't any Public Buildings Commissioner and therefore, they couldn't vote. The representative of the Chief of Engineers of the Army much to our surprise cast a negative vote. So we lost.

We appealed, and our appeal was considered on the 2nd of February 1956. Mr. Broyhill had his credentials, we had a public Buildings Commissioner, and he did vote in our favor, and there was some very, very important work to be done by a landscape architect up at West Point and the civilian who had cast the negative vote for the Chief of Engineers had to go to West Point. Unfortunately he could not be present at the meeting and his place was taken by a graduate of that small boys' school up on the Hudson, who voted in our favor and we were home free.

I don't know what we would have done, Mr. Dulles, had we gotten a negative vote. I guess this is pragmatism at its best. At any rate it was a very interesting exercise and at long last we were in at Langley not without further opposition however.

Ladies and Gentlemen, The Director of Central Intelligence.

Mr. Helms: Allen, I think the warmth of the reception which you just received says far better than I can how glad we are to have you with us today and how pleased we are to be able to do you honor.

I think that Colonel White has covered very nicely some of the vagaries that went into the acquisition of this site and the building of this building. More important to you, however, is to hear me say that the building has turned out to be everything that you hoped it would be. It works, I believe that that is a correct word of trade craft in the architectural business to describe an edifice which has been put up and does what it was designed to do.

We are comfortable here. Those of us who were spread in thirty-four buildings around the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Maryland for so many years came out with reservations as you know. There were security problems we thought, and various other difficulties we were going to have, but these have all been coped with and seem to have disappeared and those of us who do work here now are delighted with what you were able to do and what you were able to create and we thank you.

I think it would be a mistake to have you here today to do you honor on these grounds without mentioning the clear vision which you had for so many years; the role which intelligence should have in the United States Government and in American society.

As I recall it, you were asked to testify at the end of the war before the Armed Services Committee and you were very influential in getting the Central Intelligence Agency established and the legislation through the Congress. For this reason, I would like today to read some of the remarks that you made on the third of November 1959 when the cornerstone for this building was laid.

I would like to read them because I think we all in the business need to be reminded of what you said, and the thoughts that you shared with the group that was there then.

" Laws can create agencies of government; they cannot make them function. Only the high purpose and dedication of all serving them can weld them into effective instruments for our National security. In this work of intelligence, we must not forget that

human beings are largely creatures of their beliefs. As individuals we tend instinctively and sometimes wistfully to become attached to causes, to theories, to solutions. If they be sound and enduring, based on the deep moral strivings of man and the highest conception of our national interests, let us cling to them. But in the field of our relations with our fellow men abroad, let us assure ourselves through accurate intelligence, that our attachments to policies are soundly based. It is the particular duty of this Agency to help perform this function in a world where change is the rule rather than the exception.

"This task must be carried out fearlessly, without warping, to meet our prejudices or our predilections or even the tenets of existing policy. As we build a new edifice in which to house, to concentrate, and to coordinate our work, we must re-dedicate ourselves to this high purpose." And today, Allen, we would like to do this again.

As you foresaw, in a troubled world, we were going to have our problems in intelligence. Our problems in maintaining our objectivity and our sincere purposes. But you would be pleased, I think, at the way all of us in the intelligence community work together in this day and age.

To take a specific example, when the Arab-Israeli troubles burst on the world last June, every single element of the intelligence community contributed immediately to the coverage of this affair. The Foreign Broadcast Information Service, Clandestine Services, The FBI, NSA, DIA, the State Department; there was just no element of the community that wasn't there, on the spot, and providing information with the greatest rapidity that we have ever seen in history.

Intelligence came out very well in that crisis. Very well indeed. From the collection on one side to the analysing and estimating on the other. I recall rather vividly the ten days before the war actually started. We had been asked for an estimate of an appraisal that the Israeli government had made about the situation in the Middle East particularly the order of battle and how they were...how they saw the Arab forces around them. Within the space of forty-five. . . .Within the space of four to five hours, a paper was produced commenting on this assessment of the Israelis. At six o'clock that night, I was asked to attend a meeting at the White House. The paper had already been distributed and we were waiting in an outer office to go in and see the President who had been in Montreal that day.

Dean Rusk looked over at me and said, "Dick, do you agree with what this paper says?" and I said, "Yes, Sir, I do." Well, he smiled and he said, "I just want to tell you something. As Mayor La Guardia once said, 'If this is a mistake, it's a beaut!'" This was an appraisal that had been made by DIA and the Agency together, working jointly, it said what we saw the facts to be. Two weeks later it was history. Those were indeed the facts; the assessment and the appraisal was accurate. I don't think you can do any better than this.

I would now like to turn and tell you how it came about that we arrived today at this ceremony. Many of us thought, after we had discovered that the building really worked that it would be a fine thing if we could have you identified with it more closely than is presently the case. We considered a variety of suggestions from all kinds of people in the Agency. There were three specific ones that we then considered in the final analysis. One was a plaque with a bas-relief of your head, another was a bust of you, and the third was a modern sculpture. After working this around, we decided that perhaps a plaque would be the best. At this point, we asked Mr. Heinz Warneke to undertake this commission, knowing that he is probably the greatest living sculptor in the United States.

He worked with you as you will recall. We had originally decided on a plaque in bronze, but when he came out here and looked at the building and looked at these walls and columns, he suggested to us that it be in marble instead. And we accepted this suggestion. We were then confronted with the normal problem of what kind of an inscription we would have and then our troubles really began. We took some thirty suggestions and finally narrowed them down to one which was a Latin inscription which appears on the North door in St. Paul's Cathedral in London, written by the son of Sir Christopher Wren. The Latin reads, "Si monumentum requiris circumspice." Now I know, Allen, you know how that translates, and I know that everybody sitting here knows how that translates, but there might be one or two young people who don't; who didn't have the opportunity of a classical education. What it in effect says is, "If you would see his monument, look around." We worked on this for a while and there was something about the "look around" that seemed to hand and also it seemed to be a kind of a phrase that in an intelligence organization might lead one to be slightly suspicious. So we went back to the drawing board and decided to add the word "you". If you would see his monument, look around you. Well this seemed to be a little bit long and a little bit wordy, so we worked it down to "his monument surrounds us." Well, somehow or other, there was something about the word surround I didn't like. And realizing that in every organization these debates have to stop somewhere, I decided to stop this one by picking the inscription



which you will see in just a moment.

And so, Allen, with deep appreciation, we would like to unveil the plaque behind me, and we hope that it will perpetuate your memory among all CIA employees for all time to come--we hope you like it.

(Unveiling)

For those of you in the back, the inscription reads, "His Monument is Around Us." Allen, would you say a few words.

ALLEN DULLES: Dick and friends, I am deeply moved to be here today and at the words that Dick has said. In his story of our problems with this building, I think there is only one incident that I recall that he did not mention, maybe for Security reasons, but still I will take a chance on it.

After we thought everything was all arranged and organized, and the provision to be inserted in the appropriation bill which was coming before the Congress--the House that day, there was an article blank, a sub-section blank. There was a provision of money which was necessary to start the beginning of this building. As I say, everything was agreed, there wasn't any debate on it; all the committees of the Congress had accepted this and as Congress was to adjourn that evening, there wasn't very much time for discussion, and so we went to bed that evening satisfied that here, at least, the first big step had been taken.

And we got up in the morning and we called for a copy of the legislation with this particular provision in it, there was a blank. There was nothing there. The provision wasn't there; it was gone! Well, we said somebody's made a typographical error. This can't be true. It is impossible. And then we found that what had happened was this. Even in those days there was quite a move for economy and as the bill was being considered by the committees to reconcile the differences between the House and the Senate, someone came across this particular section with an appropriation for thirty-odd million dollars and they said, "What's this?" And it just so happened by mischance, that the man on the committee who was supposed to follow this and protect this particular section was absent, and nobody on the two committees, the House and the Senate, as they were trying to reconcile the difficulties, nobody knew what this was. It was quite a lot of money. And they said, "Is there any objection to striking this out?" Quiet, silence, not a word. It was struck out. And the next morning when Red and I got the bill as it had been signed and by that time Congress had adjourned, it was too late. We said this is a mistake, a typographical error. The typewriter didn't happen to put that certain sentence in. No, the information came back that this had been agreed upon and we said, "What is there to do?", and they said, "There's nothing to do. You have to wait for the next Congress. You have to start over again." Well we did. That was one little incident that shows what can happen when you make the best of all plans, think you've anticipated everything and then something happens, but the next year we said, "Well let's go for this and say what we're doing, so that nobody has any doubt that the appropriation is for the building," and we went that way, and we got our appropriation. And we lost a year and I guess the government lost a bit of money because prices always go up in construction. But still, we have the building.

Ladies and Gentlemen, a building is only a tool. A good building, a building that has the facilities for the workmen and the workwomen who are in it can be a very useful tool; can add to our work. But it is the people in the building which tell whether it is a success or not. And I'm deeply touched by the inscription which your Director, Dick, had put on this, I believe it is called a bas-relief. It was you and others of your associates. You are the Agency. You have this tool with which to work and hopefully it will be a useful tool. But it is the men and women and as I stand here and look at so many friends and people with whom I have worked with for so many years, and as one gets older, you know, these things become more and more important. I feel that if I have accomplished anything it is in the fact that this Government has been able to enlist in this vital work of intelligence. You people with your abilities, with your strength, there will be failures here and there. You are in a dangerous and difficult occupation. You can't always be right, but I am sure that as long as the quality of the personnel remains what it is today that your batting average will be high--higher than the Senators I guess--but anyway it will be high and the Government can be proud of you.

I look back over a good many years now and I have devoted a great share of my life to the work in intelligence and it is, therefore, with great pride and a great deal of humility that I stand here with you today and we unveil this plaque, bas-relief. I was not an easy subject for Mr. Warneke and I think he has done a splendid job with it. He couldn't keep me sitting still for long though and he had to catch me on the fly, as it were, but I feel really, that this is something of which certainly I am vastly proud. As I say, as one gets older, one looks back and wonders what one has left behind. It is to me thrilling to realize that this plaque will be here for some years, I hope, as a more or less lasting reminder of someone who started in the work of intelligence fairly early in his career and kept it up and stands proud of the people there are around us here and are around this building. As I say, a building is nothing but a tool that you use and Dick, I thank you and all those who had anything to do with this. My deep, deep gratitude and this plaque will be one of the things which I shall be most proud and to have it here in a building on which I worked for some time and people with whom I worked for, many of them, most of my working life and that goes over half a century now, and to see you here, talk with you, meet you again not to say good-bye to you, but just to say good luck in the great work in which you are engaged and under the leadership that you have I am sure that you will be successful

Thanks, Dick, very much.